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The Times.

ENLARGED SHEET.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1885.

The Craving for Horrible Spectacles.

The amount of morbid curiosity manifested by people of different classes in their efforts to witness the execution of the criminals who yesterday paid the extreme penalty of the law, is a pitiful commentary upon humanity. A strange coming into town and knowing nothing of what was transpiring, would have supposed it some grand galas day, so great were the throngs upon the streets and the hill-tops, and upon the high buildings overlooking the jail-yard where the execution took place. It is to this phase of such tragedies that the Times has always objected—this morbid, overweening desire on the part of certain classes in every community to witness such events simply to gratify a love of excitement, and with no sense whatever of the solemnity of the occasion when men are called to pay the extreme penalty of outraged law.

Like the gathering at some festival was the gathering yesterday awaiting the execution. Men and boys, and women, even, were huddled together till they blackened the hills; the jail yard was surrounded by a motley crowd, who jostled each other as they strove to get a glimpse of the gallows through the narrow cracks in the fence; men and women filled the stairs and upper landings of adjacent buildings, and craned and peered and stretched their necks to get, but the merest glimpse of this tragedy of death.

Law-abiding and law-loving citizens believe in the majesty of the law being sustained. Just so long as human life is held lightly, and human blood is wantonly spilt to satisfy the lust for gain or for revenge, just so long must society protect itself against the murderer and the assassin. Too often in this state, as well as elsewhere, has justice been defeated by the escape of the criminal; lawless men in contemplating crime had come to feel that the chances for their escape from punishment were so great that their daring was hardly worth the taking into account. If taken they have posed as martyrs before the gaping crowds of the curious, rather than as criminals paying a just and awful penalty for crime. It is time this day is progressing.

J. E. C.

[The letter referred to, which was successfully rendered by our Dramatic Club, failed to reach the Times on time, and was lost in the post office. It was reprinted in the paper of the 19th inst. and is now available in the paper of the 21st inst.]

FLORENCE, CAL., MARCH 18.—Some frogs are singing. The frogs on dry land are looking extremely thirty.

The low lands, however, are in good condition for the planting of corn. Irrigation is the order of the day where water can be obtained.

The fruit growers, however, believe they have found at last a complete insect destroyer. It seems to do the work well. The ingredients are lime, crude oil, and water. The proportion I am not prepared to say.

Oranges are being shipped in car-loads to the East.

Mr. Leslie shipped two car loads of raisins to Chicago Wednesday of this week. This is his last shipment for this season.

Mr. Sharpless, formerly of Pasadena, is going into the nursery business just a short distance from his old home.

Mr. W. Babcock, who came to California to get the benefits of our climate for himself and family and to escape the rigors of Eastern winters, left his residence last week.

Mrs. V. H. Tustin is lying very low from the fever. Tustin and it is thought she cannot recover.

Mr. A. Snyder, one of our most enterprising men, having made a fortune in the oil business, like a sensible man is closing out his present stock at cost, with a view to retiring from business.

A regular postmaster, C. E. French, has tendered his resignation as P. M., and I understand F. Chilton has been recommended for the position. Frank is a prompt and efficient business man, and makes an efficient Postmaster if appointed.

Prof. W. Babcock and family celebrated the ninetieth birthday of his mother on the 15th inst. The old lady was born in Florence, Italy, now living in Wadsworth, and, according to her son, like a sensible man is closing out his present stock at cost, with a view to retiring from business.

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